

AN

no. 5

ANSWER

BY

Doctor Black:

TO A

LETTER

WRITTEN

To a Friend in the Countrey,
concerning Dr. Brown's *Vin-*
dicatory Schedule, &c. By
Philander.

Much hath been talked by some two
or three young Physicians, *Dol-*
phingtons Disciples (for through
all *Scotland* they do not exceed that number)
of his Answer to the Survey of the *Vindica-*
tory Schedule: It was said to be a piece, that
would so Nettle the Physicians his supposed
Antagonists, and so confound them; that they
should wish never to have meddled in the
Matter. Now it appears, and so Silly a piece

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of Stuff is again obtruded upon the World, that it should not be thought worth the while to Answer it, were it not to invite these Gentlemen to enter the Lists; for better than this cannot be expected from *Dolphingtoun*, or from any of his Abilities.

The greatest part of the Survey being spent in exposing the Author, and his *Schedule*, about the end, the *Hypothesis*, and the method are seriously Refuted. It might have been expected that *Dolphingtoun's* Counsel should have suggested to him, to say something in Vindication of himself with respect to those matters of Fact, with which he stands branded; and something for the *Hypothesis*, which really is contrary to the circulation of the Blood, and to the mechanical structure of the Heart and Arteries; and somewhat likewise in favour of his method from reason; as also in defence of the many passages of his Book, which are taxed with Nonsense, or Contradiction. But all these he hath industriously avoided, judging it fitter to amuse the World with general Terms, (which every Blockhead that meets with opposition, may say in his own defence) and reflections upon the Author of the Survey, whom he will not allow to be one; but through all his Letter he speaks

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of him in the Plural Number; I suppose 'tis because having in the 9th page called himself a Champion, he thinks one too few to grapple with him. The truth is the greatest part of the Survey admits no Answer, it being either his own in *Terminis*, or most natural consequences drawn from it, intermixt with matters of Fact, which he hath left, as he found them, not thinking it convenient to rip up old Sores.

Before I enter upon examination of his Letter, it is to be observed that he hath got some good by the Survey; for his Friends have helped him to wipe his Stile, though not to any great degree: and under the covert of this, and the personating another, he expects to hide himself: Yet in spite of this artifice, his *Synonyma*, which without doubt he hath learned at the Letren, and his perplexed Banter discover him perpetually.

He begins his Letter with a ridiculous story of Grief, and Pleasure, which many have with relation to him and his method: *They have grief*, says he, *when they consider that their Friends, who dyed of Feavers, were not treated by the purging method; since so much can be said for that method from reason, and experience.* But for all this fair flourish

he sayes never a word for it either from Reason or experience, except in the end, where he gives some instances of Cures (of which in their due place) and he leaves unanswered, what was said in the Survey against the method both from reason, and experience. In the next place he tells us *that least the Physicians should be branded with oversight, or negligence because they have not been the first Discoverers or Entertainers of this method, therefore they suppress it.* Which is a gross Calumny: I know no Physician either so wicked, or foolish, as to refuse a better method, than what at present he practiseth, so he can be convinced, that there is any such: But I think no wise Physician will quite the method he has found succesful, for a new one established only upon the practice of one or two inconsiderable Physicians, and these as unsuccesful as others; especially since Reason hath formed so many prejudices against it, that 'tis impossible for a judicious Person following the dictates of his Reason, to determine himself that way. Besides 'tis disingenuous in *Dolphingtoun* to say that any foul means have been used to suppress this his method: I know some foul ones have been used to advance it, and its admirers; whereof some stand unanswered in the Survey.

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The 2d. Parag. Is stuff'd with *Dolphington's* kind sentiments of pleasure, that he's become an Author. For says he *The inquisitive are not a little delighted to find a concern so important handled so ingeniously, and a Design so profitable, prosecute so plausibly. Tho' the medical Art be truly, if it contain any thing of certainty or reality, hid so deep from the eyes of Men, that the world is much in doubt whether it be an Art or Artifice: Yet I find as ye likeways observe, that the Author in his Book has done prettily to prove it an Art. Truly Fool-Andrew (for I cannot otherways decipher this Philander) what you have said here may give the world a sufficient Character of your Vanity. for sure I am; was never more Incense burnt to Self-conceit, than is done here: I must say Medicine has little to say for itself, if it depend upon *Dolphington's* prettily done Book to prove it an Art.*

What he talks of the Physicians faults in 3d, parag. I know none so guilty as himself of these faults for which he blames Others; neither do I know any Physician troubled about his charging them with faults, nor grudging at it; so he might have had spared his pains.

'Twas no wonder if the Physicians hu-

mours had been raised, as he tells in the 4th, parag. To find an original piece of Banter obtruded upon the World, in defence of a new method in Medicine, Stuff'd with a Collection of things pick't up here, and there, at Random; which have no more relation to one another, then his *Schedule* hath to Learning, or Sense: But they have neither breathed out Malice, nor Spite against him; they have only told the truth to his Shame, were he Capable of any.

The 5th, parag. Must be Usher'd in with *Revolutions, Reformations, Struggle, and Commotion, Changes, and Earthquakes*. One would think the *Cat of Smalholm* were prophesying that the whole course of Nature should be in danger to be dissolved, when *Dolphingtoun's* new method were introduced in to the World. His Messenger of Satan did not succeed with him so well, to abuse the Scriptures again. As his Friend, I would advise him to quite his Tub-preaching to others.

As to the 6th, parag. To bring in himself upon other mens practice, is as notable an instance of his *Envy*, as any thing I know. Of Pride he hath arraigned himself already, acknowledging he needed Buffetting for his looseness of mind.

All that's said in the 7th, parag, about Splendour, and brightness of Truth, and light of raising Dirt and Mist to throw upon the Propagators and Advancers of Truth, is as far out of his road, as are his ridiculous stories of Luther, and the Devil; Sir, Satan, and Dr. Sherlock. But in his *Schedule* he gives us a Specimen of his reading in Medicine: Now he gives us one in Pamphlets. As for his *Book*, it has got a more solid Answer, than it deserved: So he seems to be a false Prophet.

For Answer to the 8th, parag. I know none that thought the debate in hand of great importance: The method was Doctor Sydenham's, and the *Schedule* was published to strengthen the Doctors Reasonings; but by ill luck it weakened them: Solid reasons were given for the not using the method, but nothing can convince a head-strong Fool enamoured with the productions of his own brain: Neither is the Survey ridiculous, but so much of it as is his. And for the personal reflections, they are all very true, and are in relation to his practice; so that Merry Andrew hath acquitted himself like a man of parts, in giving an answer, such as the subject deserved, or could bear; like a man of Probity, in exposing one, whose design is to Cozen the World: And

Were Fool Andrew a man of parts, he might Blush for his Book; but how it should Blush I doe not understand. If he will not be advised to leave off his Tub-preaching, at least he would take care to cite the Scriptures right, for *Faith* is here set down for *Hope*.

For Answer to the 9th parag. I shall not condescend upon these men he charges with *Impudence*, and *Folly*, since he thought it not fit to name them; but sure I am, they have a larger share of both, than any of my acquaintance, if their *Impudence* or *Folly* come near his. The ancient practice in Feavers hath been more succesful than his new practice, my assertion is as good as his denyal, and much better grounded. *If it be delusion to think to put off the world with Banter, &c. In such a weighty matter as this is,* why hath he wrote a Book of Banter in this matter? and this very Letter of his is not free of it; for here is a new Essay of that kind, *though the petulancy of some superficial Pates like the Authors, may be tickled, and Palats tinged with the same virulence of Malice with the Libellers, may be gratified with such scurrilities:* So natural is this stile to him, that in spite of his Feigned Person, and other endeavours to conceal himself yet his speech still bewrayes him,

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There is nothing in the 10th, parag. That deserves observation.

For Answer to the 11th, parag. The Survey sent him to *Purgatory* to Refine him from his Dross; but he, ever fertile of new methods, hath found out a new way of Refining himself, which is to *Snuff* him, as they do a *Candle*, that his vertue may shine more bright. Here we have a new Essay something in kin to *Banter*, to *Enconter Malice, cartel Envy*, and to *desy detraction and defamation*.

For Answer to the 12 parag he knows that D, *Dal.* and D, *Dav.* Entreated him not to publish his *Schedule*, yet out it came, so impossible is it to perswade Fools who are ever Fond of their own Productions And since he subjected his *Schedule* to the consideration of all Ingenious Physicians; he hath got the sentiments of some of them about it little to his satisfaction; but nothing but applause will please him, which no Ingenuous Physician can give.

For Answer to the 13th parag. her's another Instance of his Fondness of his offspring. I shall allow him to compare himself to the Fairest fruit (he means the Apples of *Sodom*) or to the Fattest Dear Horns and all together for I shall not deny him a vegetable or sensitive Life; But to preter himself to *I hemistacles*

cles who can endure this? That loftiness of mind has yet need of the Messenger of Satan.

For Answer to the 14th parag. All the sober and serious Men here are comprehended within the number of two or three young Physicians, who think to be taken notice off by pretending to something new, and out of the common road; but if they have not much honour of their Master, I leave it to every indifferent Person to judge. He did well not to end his Latine verse, least he should fall into the same Solœcismes he did last. A ridiculous piece ought to be treated in ridicule, which is not so sham a way of reasoning. If the Survey had been such Merry Andrew stuff, it might have been the more easily answered by those who have so much Affinity to that kind of People; but it is a Pamphlet stuff't with so much reason and truth, that *Dolphingtoun* hath not found it convenient to attaque any particular part of it. But of all men alive why should *Philander* challenge Dr. *Black* for concealing his name.

The rest of his Letter, is taken up in performing what the *Schedule* first prompted to be done. But were it not for fear to give offence to some Persons who do not desire their Relations to be named, the publick should get a counterlist of those that have died under *Dol-*

phing.

Dolphingtoun's new method. I shall not question but some have escaped under this method, which only proves, that People though ill Treated may recover. But it is not at all reasonable that I should believe all those People had truly the Feaver, since *Dolphingtoun* had the impudence to call that a Feaver which two of the most eminent Physicians in *Edinburgh* said was none, what will he not say where he is sole Physician, and can meet with no contradiction. Upon the whole, that part of *Hip*, First Aph. may be very well applyed here, *Experientia Fallax*.

The Letter wrote by *Malthus* to Dr. *Pitcarne* came never to the Doctors hands, and was never seen by any but *Dolphingtoun*, to not to be Credited, but said upon design; But let it be so as he would have it, will the Testimony of an Apothecary interess'd upon *Sydenham's* Account, ruin a method approved by Thousands for many Hundred of Years, to establish a new one with such manifest contradiction? I think 'twill not.

Though *Dolphingtoun's* ridiculous Hypothesis was sufficiently retuted before in few words, yet finding some of our young Physicians applauding it, I thought it would not be amiss to touch it again. I do not think it
strange

strange for one of *Dolphingtoun's* Education to have such a confused notion of things, he having never been Abroad at any University to follow the study of Medicine by the advice and direction of able Professors appointed for that end: And having received his Degrees only at *Aberdeen*, where there is no profession of Medicine. Nothing less could have been expected from one who had never read the Institutions, had never seen any dissections, courses of *Chymistry*, nor heard any Colledges upon the practice of Medicine. But for others to pretend to have had a more liberal Institution, and yet to be Profelites to *Doctor Dolphingtoun*; who can think they have any regard to their Reputation?

There is nothing more absurd in all his *Schedule* than the *7th* and *8th* Sections about his Hypothesis of the Essence and cause of Fevers. Every Physician knows that the heart is a Muscle endued with spiral Fibres fitted for Contraction; that it hath two Ventricles for reception of the Blood in its dilatation; that it hath valvules of two kinds to hinder the return of the Blood from the Arteries to the heart again; that the Arteries have transverse Fibres, by which they contract themselves and press forward the Blood; 'Tis cer-

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tain that every part that is contracted has an innate faculty to perform that Action, which is done by the influx of the animal Spirits into the Fibres of whatever kind they are. On the contrary it is as certain that all parts, that are dilated, can never dilate themselves, but when dilated they do ever suffer Violence from the humours, or what ever else they contain ('Tis true the *Pharinx* and the *Cartilagines Aritenoides* are dilated, not by any thing they contain, but by reason of the Muscles joyned to the outside of either, so is the mouth dilated by the Muscles of the nether jaws.) 'Tis also certain that the Ventricles of the heart (every one of which containeth at least a Dragme of Blood when dilated) are of the same substance with the inner Coats of the Arteries and Veins, and are sensible of irritation; that in the dilatation of the Heart, the Quantity, the Heat, the Weight, and the Distention through the effervescence of the Blood doe irritat it; that this irritation makes the heart contract it self without respect to a final Cause (as this Dreamer Fancies to himself;) that at the same instant of the hearts contraction, the Blood is thrust out with Violence into the *Aorta* and by Continuity into all the Arteries of the Body, by which they

they are dilated, while the heart is contracted; and that the Pulse that strikes our Fingers, is nothing else but the Dilation of the Arteries, occasioned by the contraction of the Heart at the same instant. For *Dolphington* then to allow, that in a Feaver the pulses are more frequent, and yet to say that the motion of the Blood is more slow, this is the greatest Nonsense one can be capable of For at every pulse I suppose but a dragma of the Blood to be thrust into the Arteries by the contraction of the Heart, this Blood can not return because of the Valvules, forward it must go, otherways the Arteries should burst asunder; and consequently the more frequent the pulses are, the motion of the Blood must be the swifter.

It has been alwayes a received Opinion, that heat in a Feaver is the effect of the rapid motion of the Blood Neither does *Dolphington's* or *Bontiko's* objection destroy this posuion, for though the Blood Stagnat in an Inflammation, where the member is otherways affected with more than ordinary heat; yet there being such a quantity of extravasated Blood, which does not coagulat, but is still fluid, because of the few Spirits it retains; and the capillary Arteries being distended with Blood, which is the cause of the pulse, where
there

there was none be ; 'tis no wonder if that
 part be affected in more than ordinary
 heat, since it contains more than ordinary
 Blood; for where there is much Blood there
 is much heat. I shall only send *Dolphing*.
 home to Churn his *Butter*, to prove
 that there is heat in Fluids; after a few hours
 motion of the Churn he will find the heat he
 denies; I use this Familiar instance, because
 he never found the heat that is raised, when
 the Spirit of *Vitriol* is poured upon the Oyle
 of *Tartar*, since he never saw the experiment.
 In immoderate motion of the Body there
 is a frequent motion of the Blood, occasion-
 ed by the frequent motion of the Muscles,
 by this motion the heat is raised before there
 be any Consumption or Waste. In this mo-
 tion likewayes the Blood is rarified by the
 heat, the pores are opened, and sweat does for
 the most part follow; But because of the sepa-
 ration of the serous part, the Blood at length
 becomes more thick, which does not fall out
 till the pulse settle again; But this *Fool* mis-
 takes alwayes the cause for the Effect.

His Diaphanous Blood, and his reflected,
 and refracted, rayes of heat in the Body are
 nonsense not worth the refuting.

After

After all, this may not given us the
 definition of a Feaver, which we may
 know its Nature, and Effects, and its difference
 from other Diseases, But being weary to
 answer a Fool in his Folly, I leave this *Misanthrope*
 to his own evil Genius, with this
 assurance, that whatever further he writes,
 shall never be thought worthy of my Consideration.

FINIS.